Attorney's Docket: 2002DE438

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Preliminary Amendment prior to Examination

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following:

## Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention relates to copolymers of formula (I) wherein R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkyl radical or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkenyl radical which can also contain heteroatoms, an acid group or an aliphatic or aromatic group comprising 1 - 50 carbon atoms, including an acid group, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> independently represent hydrogen, methyl and/or ethyl, n ranges from 0 - 100, and m ranges from 3 to 30, and k ranges from 1 - 200, and A is hydrogen, an acid group, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkyl radical or a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkenyl radical which can also contain heteroatoms, an aliphatic or aromatic group comprising 1 - 50 carbon atoms, including an acid group, or a copolymer unit of formula (II), wherein R4 is hydrogen, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkyl radical or a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkenyl radical which can also contain heteroatoms, an acid group or an aliphatic or aromatic group comprising 1 - 50 carbon atoms, including an acid group, R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen, methyl and/or ethyl, x ranges from 0 to 100, and y ranges from 3 -30, wherein, if A is formula (2), R<sup>1</sup> represents hydrogen or an acid group.